



St. Michael Messenger

St. Michael Lutheran Church

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August 1, 2021

Greetings Dear People of God,

It is no secret that some people go to church regularly, some go occasionally, and others seldom go at all, but how important is church participation to you? Are there good reasons why you should go to church?

The gathering of God's people in church is critical to our spiritual life because it fills a void in us that only the church (the body of Christ) can. If our car needs fixing, we would take it to an automotive repair shop. If we, or someone we love, is sick we would see a doctor or go to the hospital. The church is where we go when we are in need of the good news of Jesus Christ. Martin Luther said, "The church is a hospital for sinners and not a museum for saints." And what is sin? It is anything we put our trust in, other than Christ, to save us. We are all guilty of sin and in need of the good news.

With all the weight and pressures of this life weighing down on us, we have an expectation that the church will help to provide Biblical base answers that no other institution can provide. "Lord to whom shall we go, for you have the words of eternal life."

The Bible calls on believers to be the church, and not just go to church. But to effectively be the church, we need to faithfully gather with the other members of the body of Christ for equipping and encouragement.

After months of isolation, due to the pandemic, we are going to have to work at discovering anew how sacred and life-giving it is to attend Church, and how much we ache when we're denied the means to do so. Hopefully, isolation has taught us how much our faith life is dependent on proximity to one another.

The Scriptures advise us "not to give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, even more as you see the day of the Lord approaching" (Hebrews 10:25). Why not come to church next Sunday and rediscover what it means to be the church in our community every day? Let us not take for granted the miracle of gathering together and all the gifts that are found in being the body of Christ for the sake of the world, the church and one another.

With Peace and Hope,
Pastor Michelle

Sharing Our Gifts: Time, Talents and Treasure

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love.

Thank you to some "quiet" servants

To all the volunteers who help with Micah's Backpack and Micah's Soup for Seniors; to the mowing crew; to John Kell and Fran Shepherd for weeding the yard; to Margaret Larsen, Betty Wingate and Judith Wolfe for folding the July newsletter; to our church council for continuing to guide us through this challenging time; to all who helped with our Vacation Bible School; to Ray Howell for fixing the lights throughout the building and for his gift of maintenance services over many years, to Betty Wingate for taking our donations to the Women's Resource center; to Lynda Kinzey for making sure our food pantry donations are given to those in need; to Sandie Worley for creating our lovely silk flower arrangements for the altar and to Sandy Birch, Sandy Williams, the wonderful cooks at New Mt. Zion led by Nina Montgomery, and the chefs of Shiloh, who prepared our special evening meals for Vacation Bible School.

Because of your gifts



Your generous gifts in July provided Vacation Bible School supplies, stamps, altar supplies, survey and sewer design for hooking up to the Town of Blacksburg sewer system, a locking filing cabinet, a workshop music book, office supplies, our benevolence to the Virginia Synod, donations to MCEAP, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Bedford Lutheran Church and salaries for our staff.

The **Justice and Mercy Fund** assisted **two** families: one with their electric bill and one with rent assistance. We encourage the congregation to continue their contributions to the fund and to refer friends and family to use the fund as you see need.

Thank You and Help Wanted

We send a huge **thank you to Michelle Berg** who has worked behind the scenes for longer than we can remember. Michelle is the writer and organizer of the congregational weekly email known as *News and Notes*. Michelle, thank you so much for using your time and talent to spread the St. Michael news week in and week out. We really appreciate you!

Michelle will be stepping away from this volunteer position as her responsibilities at work have increased tremendously. **We are now in need of someone to create the weekly congregational email.** We use Constant Contact to distribute the email. The information for the email will be provided, you will just put it together and make it look good. If you are interested in helping out with this important position, please let Pastor Michelle know as soon as possible. The position will begin right away.

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August Sunday Servants

	August 1	August 8	August 15	August 22	August 29
Altar Care					
10 AM Service					
Greeters/Ushers	Sandy Williams Dave Surface	Wilma Pieper Butch Akers	Fran Shepherd Dickie Shepherd	Mark Pasier Jeanette Pasier	Jody Smiley Doug Smiley
Lay Reader	Mickey McGuigan	John Stramiello	Bert Kinzey	Butch Akers	Anna Rossomando

Please Note: Greeters/Ushers at both services please take the attendance, write the number down and place in the offering plate. Paper and pen are in the bookshelf drawer.

Mowing: 8/7-Matthew James (front); 8/14-Jay Nagle (back); 8/21-Daniel Ferrell (front); 8/28-Dickie Shepherd (back)
Rear Lot: 8/2-Jeff Crowder; 8/9-Dave Surface; 8/16-Doug Smiley; 8/23-Gary Steck; 8/30-Jeff Crowder

Women of the ELCA



WELCA Wednesdays: Lunch and Learn: We plan to begin our fall season of Lunch and Learn Wednesday September 15th. More information will be coming in the September newsletter as well as the weekly church email news.

School Supplies – School begins August 12th. We'll be collecting school supplies for the children at Price's Fork Elementary School. You can bring your supply donation to church any Sunday or on

Mondays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Other arrangements can be made by calling Suzanne at the church office (951-8951).

These are the needed items:

backpacks
pencil boxes or pouches
plastic folders with 2 pockets and brads
composition notebooks
spiral notebooks - regular rule
scissors
headphones

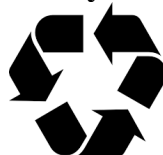


Note about headphones: these are the recommended headphones from Amazon which are sold as a set of 12. Please contact Suzanne if you would like to make a donation towards the purchase of these headphones:

https://www.amazon.com/Califone-2800-BL-Listening-First-Headphones/dp/B000A4V29A/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=califone+headphones&qid=1623953551&sr=8-3

A big **thank you** to everyone for your donations to Price's Fork Elementary, as well as many other ways you each support our community.

Recycle...recycle...recycle



We continue to collect hotel-sized bottles of shampoo, conditioner, and lotion (donated to the Christmas Store) as well as batteries, ink cartridges, and soda can pull tabs (donated to the Ronald McDonald House). The recycle bins are located in the fellowship hall near the kitchen pass-thru window. Thank you.

Micah's Backpack Sharing the Story

MBP is finished with summer school food delivery. We averaged 140 bags of food delivered each week. Thank you to all of our volunteers who took the time to pack and deliver the bags. You are truly appreciated.



On June 28th we had some of the VT football players come and pack for us.

On July 13th we began packing bags for the Micah's Mobile Backpack Summer Program. We partnered with Aloha Eddie's Snow Cones for

the delivery of bags on July 15th. We received free pizzas from Domino's Pizza for delivery on the July 22nd, and 120 free mini subs from Jersey Mike's Subs for delivery on the 29th. Chase Biegler, manager at Jersey Mike's, joined us on the bus to hand out the food and subs to our students.

Robert Meyers, owner of R.P.M. Motorsports has asked to partner with MBP. Robert does amazing vehicle detailing. For every vehicle Robert details MBP receives \$10. Please check out R.P.M. Motorsports on their Facebook page.

We will be gearing up for our 2021-22 school year soon. Drivers are needed to deliver bags to our ten schools. If this is something you might be interested in doing please contact John Stramiello by phone, text, or email: 540-599-4682, hope@micahsbackpack.org or stram@stmhc.us

We are continuing to pack and distribute over 100 bags to the seniors at Warm Hearth. We are getting food from both Feeding America and Kroger. We are starting back to our almost normal routine of packing the bags at the church with volunteers and then loading up the cars and delivering them to Warm Hearth. We are being asked at this time to only knock at the door and leave the bags. Since we are packing generic bags and are not following our normal menu option as in the past this worked well during our delivery in June. The bags contain quite a few of the basic items: tuna, peanut butter, soup, spaghetti, cereal, fruit cups and crackers plus any special items we may be able to get from Feeding America.



We will be packing and delivering the 4th Tuesday of each month. At this time, we are going to try a new time- packing at 10 a.m. and then leaving immediately after to deliver.

We are happy to be back delivering to the seniors at Warm Hearth and look forward to continuing our program in this manner.

We will be collecting **chicken noodle soup** for the month of **August**.

Our schedule for the next several months will be:

August 24th

September 28th

October 26th

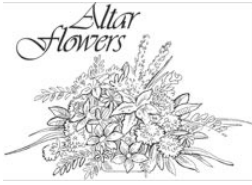
O.K.s (Older Kids)

Planning ahead -- the annual **Gourmet** Back-to-School Happy-Go-Lucky Luncheon will be Tuesday, **September 14**, at noon. Our resident chef, Sandy Williams, is already planning our tasty treats. We'll enjoy a special history lesson, a little music and maybe a math problem or two. Mark your calendars!

Council Update

Changes Coming - We have seen many changes during the past year. As we get back into church, we are currently having one service. In February 2020 Elizabeth Graves and Fran Shepherd attended a seminar on safety in church. As a follow up to that seminar, we recently invited Master Deputy Lucas with the Montgomery Sheriff Department to do a safety assessment with several members. Deputy Lucas gave us a report detailing many areas that need attention. Over the next several months Council and members of the congregation will update and/or write new procedures for church safety. We will let you know of changes as they occur.

Altar Flowers and Altar Care



Sign-up sheets for altar flowers and altar care **beginning in September** are posted on the bulletin board. Thank you for serving in these special ways.

Since the cost of the altar flowers ordered from local florists has risen dramatically, we are trying something new. Sandie Worley will purchase fresh bouquets from Kroger each week and arrange our two vases for Sunday worship. The cost of the flowers will be \$30 if members of the congregation would like to sponsor the bouquets in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an anniversary or birthday. The donors are welcome to take one or both of the bouquets home after service. Each week, the “flower ladies” will deliver any remaining bouquets to our Soup for Senior friends at Warm Hearth or to any St. Michael members who might be hospitalized or in nursing homes.

Donations of flower vases (larger than bud vases) would be appreciated. A collection box is located in the fellowship hall near the kitchen pass-thru window (near the recycling bins).

Landscaping Upkeep



Have you noticed the church grounds since we have returned inside the building? After almost two seasons of little care, except for John Kell who has kept the weeds at bay and Jeff Birch for looking after The Circle of Grace, there is work to be done. We are going to return to a monthly yard care opportunity beginning in August. Bring your gardening gloves and tools for sprucing up the grounds on Saturday, August 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Come for as long as you can if you have other commitments. Many hands make the work go quickly.

Thank You Note

St. Michael,

Thank you so much for giving me this scholarship (St. Michael Lutheran Church Scholarship). I really appreciate it and it will help a lot this year.

Thanks again,

MaKayla Dowdy

Price's Fork Elementary School Teachers' Breakfast

St. Michael will once again welcome Price's Fork Elementary teachers back to school on **August 5th** with a breakfast at 8:30 a.m. As a former teacher there (Fran Shepherd), I know how much the teachers appreciate this breakfast with time to greet each other after the summer away and before the work begins. Items needed include breakfast casseroles, bagels, donuts, pastries, fruit or fruit salad and juice. Items should be delivered to the church by 8:00 a.m. on August 5 or to the school by 8:15 a.m. A person or two will be needed to assist with set-up. Contact Fran (fshepherd13@icloud.com or 540-391-2052) with what you can provide. Thank you for supporting these teachers.



Marriage Announcement of Sarah Crowder and Justin Chong



We are pleased to announce the marriage of Sarah Crowder and Justin Chong. Sarah is the daughter of Jeff and Lorin Crowder. The wedding was held at the Claytor Lake gazebo on June 27, 2021. The couple lives in Christiansburg. Sarah is studying medicine at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine and Justin is a software engineer at Torc Robotics. We wish them the best!

Scout Troop 158



Scout Troop 158, sponsored by St. Michael Lutheran Church, conducted a Court of Honor on July 27 at 7 p.m. to honor two new Eagle Scouts: Patrick Fitzhugh Cooper (Fitz) and Jacquelyn Lenahan Cooper (Jack). A reception followed.

Jack was Senior Patrol Leader for the girl's troop in 2020 and is the first female Eagle Scout in the Blue Ridge Mountains Council that covers some 21 counties in Southwest Virginia. Her mother, Kristie Cooper, Troop Treasurer said, "this would not have been possible without the strong support the girl's troop has received from St. Michael."

Fitz is Senior Patrol Leader of the boy's troop and has been a member of Troop 158 since 2015. His Eagle project was the strawberry bed at St. Michael for Micah's Garden.

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	2 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	3 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	4 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 9:00am Music Lessons 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	5 Micah's Backpack Summer Mobile Program 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	6	7 9:00am Church Yard Clean Up
8 10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org 11:15am Congregational Church Council Meeting	9 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Scout Troop - Eagle Board of Review in Fellowship Hall	10 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	11 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	12 Scout Troop Meeting - Outdoors 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom	13	14
15 10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	16 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	17 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Price Family Historical Society	18 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	19 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom	20	21
22 10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	23 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	24 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 10:00am Packing and Delivering for Soup for Seniors 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	25 8:45am Mother's Morning Out	26 8:45am Mother's Morning Out 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom	27	28
29 10:00am Indoor Worship Service at St. Michael 10:00am Watch Virginia Synod Online Worship Service at peacehopeva.org	30	31 6:00pm Packing for Micah's Backpack	1	2 7:00pm Women's Bible Study via Zoom	3	4 9:00am Church Yard Clean Up